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McCarthy fails in marathon votes for speaker, not giving up



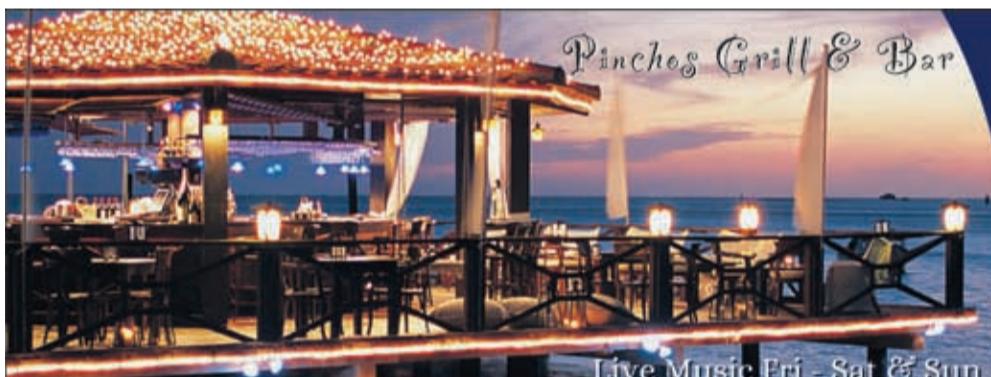
House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., speaks after a closed-door meeting with the GOP Conference as he pursues the speaker of the House role when the 118th Congress convenes, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

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SETAR



McCarthy fails in marathon votes for speaker, not giving up

From Front

By LISA MASCARO, FARNOUSH AMIRI and KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican leader Kevin McCarthy failed in marathon voting Tuesday to become House speaker, a historic defeat with no clear way out as House Republicans dug in for a long, messy start for the new Congress. Needing 218 votes in the full House, McCarthy got just 203 in two rounds — less even than Democrat Hakeem Jeffries in the GOP-controlled chamber. A third ballot was underway as night fell on the new House GOP majority, tensions rising as all other business came to a halt.

McCarthy had pledged a “battle on the floor” for as long as it took to overcome right-flank fellow Republicans who were refusing to give him their votes. But it was not at all clear how the embattled GOP leader could rebound after becoming the first House speaker nominee in 100 years to fail to win the gavel with his party in the majority.

Without a speaker, the House cannot fully form — swearing in its members, naming its committee chairmen, engaging in floor proceedings and launching investigations of the Biden administration.

“We all came here to get things done,” said the second-ranking Republican, Rep. Steve Scalise, in a rousing speech urging his colleagues to drop their protest.

Railing against President Joe Biden’s agenda, Scalise said, “We can’t start fixing those problems until we elect Kevin McCarthy our next speaker.”

It was a chaotic start to the new Congress and pointed to a difficult road ahead with Republicans in control of the House for the first time in more than a decade. A new generation of conservative Republicans, many aligned with Donald Trump’s MAGA agenda, want to upend business as



House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., stands with Minority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., left, and other Republicans before an address by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the House chamber, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022.

Associated Press

usual in Washington, and were committed to stop McCarthy’s rise without concessions to their priorities.

“The American people are watching, and it’s a good thing,” said Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, who nominated fellow conservative Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio as an alternative for speaker.

It was the second time conservatives pushed forward a reluctant Jordan, the McCarthy rival-turnedally, who earlier had risen to urge his colleagues, even those who backed him, to drop vote for McCarthy.

“We have to rally around him, come together” Jordan said.

Jordan got six votes in the first round, 19 in the second round and was on track to pick up a similar number in the third.

Smiling through it all, McCarthy huddled briefly with aides, then appeared intent on simply trying to wear down his colleagues. Earlier, he strode into the chamber, posed for photos, and received a standing ovation from many on his side of the aisle after being nominated by the third-ranking Republican, Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York, who said the Californian from gritty Bakersfield “has what it takes” to lead House Republicans.

But on the first vote a challenge was quickly raised by Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Ariz., a conservative former leader of the Freedom Caucus, who was nominated by a fellow conservative as speaker. In all, 19 Republicans peeled away, denying McCarthy the majority he needs as they cast votes for Biggs, Jordan or others in protest.

The mood was tense, at least on the Republican side, as lawmakers rose from their seats, in lengthy in-person voting. Democrats were joyous as they cast their own historic votes for their leader, Rep. Jeffries of New York.

In the first-round tally, McCarthy won 203 votes, with 10 for Biggs and nine for other Republicans. In the second, it was 203 for McCarthy and 19 for Jordan. Democrat Jeffries had the most, 212 votes, but no nominee won a majority. After a raucous private GOP meeting, a core group of conservatives led by the Freedom Caucus and aligned with Trump, were furious, calling the meeting a “beat down” by McCarthy allies and remaining steadfast in their opposition to the GOP leader.

“There’s one person who could have changed all this,” said Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., the chairman of the

Freedom Caucus and a leader of Trump’s effort to challenge the 2020 presidential election.

The group said McCarthy refused the group’s last-ditch offer for rules changes in a meeting late Monday at the Capitol.

“If you want to drain the swamp you can’t put the biggest alligator in control of the exercise,” said Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla.

“He eagerly dismissed us,” said Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo. Lawmakers convened in a new era of divided government as Democrats relinquish control of the House after midterm election losses. While the Senate remains in Democratic hands, barely, House Republicans are eager to confront President Joe Biden after two years of Democratic Party control of both houses of Congress.

Outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi gavelled closed the last session, moving aside for new House leadership in her Democratic Party, to a standing ovation from colleagues on her side of the aisle. The chaplain opened with a prayer seeking to bring the 118th Congress to life. But first, House Republicans had to elect a speaker, second in succession to the presidency.

Despite being in the minority in the Senate, where Democrats hold a slim 51-49 majority, McConnell could prove to be a viable partner as Biden seeks bipartisan victories in the new era of divided government. The two men were expected to appear together later in the week in the GOP leader’s home state of Kentucky to celebrate federal infrastructure investment in a vital bridge that connects Kentucky and Ohio. □

McConnell celebrates milestone as Senate Dems retain power

By MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are again claiming the Senate majority, but much of the chamber's focus is on the top Republican as Mitch McConnell becomes the longest serving Senate leader in history. McConnell, 80, surpassed Montana Sen. Mike Mansfield's record of 16 years as party leader when the Senate convened midday Tuesday to begin the new Congress. While the Kentucky Republican has acknowledged he would prefer his own party to be taking charge "the majority is better," he says frequently he's celebrating his own personal milestone with a Senate floor speech looking back at party leaders and their different styles over the decades.

And Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., cements a legacy of his own after winning a second term as leader and also being sworn in as the longest-serving senator from New York. Democrats will go into the new Congress with a 51-49 majority, with newly Independent Sen. Kyrsten Sinema receiving her committee assignments from Democrats.

The celebratory Senate proceedings were in marked contrast to the new Republican House majority across the Capitol, where Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy is fighting to become speaker amid contentious internal strife in his own party. McConnell, his party's leader since 2007, easily dismissed a similar challenge from within after the November midterms, and, like Schumer, begins the new year with strong support from his caucus.

Praising the tenure of Mansfield, a Democrat who led his party in the Senate after Democrat Lyndon Johnson resigned to become vice president in 1961 and served until 1977, the ever-restrained McConnell hinted in his speech at his own long-term strategy a contrast to the bombast and chaos across the Capitol.

"There've been lead-

ers who rose to the job through lower-key, behind-the-scenes styles; who preferred to focus on serving their colleagues rather than dominating them," McConnell said, and that "is how Senator Michael Joseph Mansfield of Montana became the longest-serving Senate leader in American history until this morning."

Like President Joe Biden, both Schumer and McConnell are opening the year pledging to work across the aisle and all three will have to find ways to work with the new GOP House majority to keep government running. McConnell will make a rare appearance with Biden in his home state of Kentucky this week to highlight nearly \$1 trillion in infrastructure spending that lawmakers approved on a bipartisan basis in 2021. Claiming his party's majority after senators were sworn in, Schumer said that party differences "do not absolve either either side of the need to work together when the good of the country is on the line."

"If both sides are willing to give it a good faith effort, I'm optimistic we can be successful, far more successful than many might think," Schumer said.

Also Tuesday, the Senate swore in seven new members, five Republicans and two Democrats. Unlike the House, where the swearing in was overshadowed by the antagonistic fight over the speaker's chair, the mood was jovial in the Senate. Family, friends and predecessors looked on as those freshman, along with their new colleagues who won re-election, took an oath of office administered by Vice President Kamala Harris. Senators clapped as Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth, a Democrat and Iraq War veteran who lost both legs when her helicopter was shot down in 2004, walked down the center aisle of the Senate to be sworn in instead of using her wheelchair, leaning on her Illinois colleague, Sen. Dick Durbin, for support. □



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, of Ky., center, Senator John Thune, R-SD., left, and Senator Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, right, speak during a news conference with members of the Senate Republican leadership, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press



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Idaho slayings suspect agrees to extradition to face charges

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM

Associated Press

STROUDSBURG, Pa. (AP) —

A criminology graduate student charged in the November slayings of four University of Idaho students agreed Tuesday to be extradited from Pennsylvania, where he was arrested last week, to face charges in Idaho. Bryan Kohberger, a 28-year-old doctoral student and teaching assistant at Washington State University, was arrested early Friday by state police at his parents' home in eastern Pennsylvania, authorities said.

Wearing a red jumpsuit with his hands shackled in front of him, Kohberger showed little emotion during Tuesday's brief hearing in a Pennsylvania courtroom in which he acknowledged facing four counts of first-degree murder and a burglary charge.

It was not immediately clear how soon authorities would arrange for Kohberger's transport back to Idaho — a process that is generally kept secret because of security concerns. The chief public defender in Monroe County, Pennsylvania said his client is eager to be exonerated and plans to tell a judge in Pennsylvania that he will waive his extradition hearing so he can be quickly taken to Idaho.

Kohberger should be pre-



Bryan Kohberger, who is accused of killing four University of Idaho students, is escorted to an extradition hearing at the Monroe County Courthouse in Stroudsburg, Pa., Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023.

Associated Press

sumed innocent and "not tried in the court of public opinion," said the public defender, Jason LaBar.

After Tuesday's hearing, LaBar described Kohberger as "an ordinary guy."

Capt. Anthony Dahlinger, of the Moscow Police Department in Idaho, told The Associated Press on Saturday that authorities believe Kohberger was responsible for all four slayings. The students were stabbed to death at a rental home near campus in Moscow, Idaho, sometime in the early morning hours of Nov. 13.

"We believe we've got our man," said Dahlinger,

adding that investigators obtained samples of Kohberger's DNA directly from him after he was arrested. DNA evidence played a key role in identifying Kohberger as a suspect, and officials were able to match his DNA to genetic material recovered during the investigation, a law enforcement official said last week. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss details of the ongoing investigation. Investigators have said they are still looking for a murder weapon and a motive for the killings.

Federal and state investigators are combing through Kohberger's background, financial records and electronic communications as they work to build the case against him, the official who spoke anonymously said. The investigators are also interviewing people who knew Kohberger, including those at Washington State University, the official said.

Authorities have not yet released any information about how or when Kohberger will be transported back to Idaho.

"There's a lot of layers to figuring out how to make that

happen and a lot of players involved in that, and so I just I can't speculate to how quickly that could occur," Dahlinger said last week. Kohberger's relatives in Pennsylvania have expressed sympathy for the families of the victims but vowed to support him and promote "his presumption of innocence."

His parents, Michael and Maryann, and his two older sisters, Amanda and Melissa, said in a statement released Sunday by his attorney that they "care deeply for the four families who have lost their precious children. There are no words that can adequately express the sadness we feel, and we pray each day for them." The family said that relatives will continue to let the legal process unfold,

and that "as a family we will love and support our son and brother." They say they have fully cooperated with law enforcement to try to "seek the truth and promote his presumption of innocence rather than judge unknown facts and make erroneous assumptions."

Latah County prosecutors in Idaho have said they believe Kohberger broke into the students' home near the university campus intending to commit murder. Their bodies were found Nov. 13, several hours after investigators believe they died. □



A California Highway Patrol officer stops a motorist who was suspected of speeding along Interstate 5 freeway on April 23, 2020, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California law enforcement was more than twice as

likely to use force against people they perceived as Black during vehicle and

Report analyzes racial profiling in California traffic stops

pedestrian stops in 2021, as compared to people believed to be white, according to a state report released Tuesday.

The annual report by California's Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board gathered data on vehicle and pedestrian stops by officers from 58 law enforcement agencies in 2021.

The data includes what officers perceived to be the race, ethnicity, gender and disability status of people they stop so that the state can better identify and analyze bias in policing.

The 58 agencies — which includes the 23 largest departments in the state — collectively made more than 3.1 million vehicle and pedestrian stops in 2021. By April, all of California's more than 400 law enforcement agencies must submit their data.

The data includes how officers perceive an individual's race or gender, even if it's different than how the person identifies, because the officer's perception is what drives bias.

In more than 42% of the 3.1 million stops, the individual

was perceived to be Hispanic or Latino, according to the report.

More than 30% were perceived to be white and 15% were believed to be Black.

But law enforcement searched people who were perceived to be Black at 2.2 times the rate of people thought to be white, the report said.

And teenagers 15 to 17 years who were perceived to be Black were searched at nearly six times the rate of teens believed to be white. □

South Korea: Talks with US on management of nukes underway

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— South Korea confirmed Tuesday that Seoul and Washington are discussing its involvement in U.S. nuclear weapons management in the face of intensifying North Korean nuclear threats, after President Joe Biden denied that the allies were discussing joint nuclear exercises.

The purported difference came after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un entered the new year with a vow to mass-produce battlefield nuclear weapons targeting South Korea and introduce a more powerful intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking the mainland U.S. Some experts say Kim would eventually aim to use his enlarged weapons arsenal to wrest outside concessions like sanctions relief. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said in a newspaper interview published Monday that the two countries were pushing for joint planning and training involving U.S. nuclear assets and that the United States responded positively to the idea. Asked by a reporter later at the White House about whether the two countries were discussing joint nuclear exercises, Biden replied, "No."

North Korea's recent tests have caused growing worry in Seoul and Washington. U.S. and South Korean offi-



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, attends a ceremony of donating 600mm super-large multiple launch rocket system at a garden of the Workers' Party of Korea headquarters in Pyongyang, North Korea Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022.

Associated Press

cials are expected to hold table-top exercises soon to chart out a potential joint response to a range of scenarios, including deployment of a nuclear weapon by the North, according to a senior Biden administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss planning.

The White House National Security Council in statement on Tuesday said Biden and Yoon have "tasked their teams to plan for an effective coordinated response to a range of scenarios, including nuclear use by North Korea."

Yoon's top adviser for

press affairs, Kim Eun-hye, issued a statement Tuesday saying that Seoul and Washington "are discussing an intel-sharing, a joint planning and subsequent joint execution plans over the management of U.S. nuclear assets in response to North Korea's nuclear (threats)."

Kim said Biden likely answered "no" because a reporter tersely asked him about nuclear exercises without providing any background information. In the Chosun Ilbo interview, Yoon said that while the U.S. nuclear weapons belong to the U.S., plan-

ning, intel-sharing and exercises involving them must be jointly conducted with South Korea. He said he finds it difficult to assure his people of a security guarantee with the current levels of U.S. security commitment.

South Korea has no nuclear weapons and is under the protection of a U.S. "nuclear umbrella," which guarantees a devastating American response in the event of an attack on its ally. But some experts question the effectiveness of such a security commitment, saying the decision to use U.S. nuclear weapons lies with the

U.S. president. Yoon's office didn't provide many details about his government's discussion with the United States. Some observers say South Korea is seeking to obtain a greater role in the U.S. decision-making process on the deployment of its nuclear assets in times of tensions with North Korea.

Kim Taewoo, a former head of Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification, said the reported South Korea-U.S. discussion likely "benchmarked a NATO-style nuclear-sharing arrangement" that allows NATO member states' warplanes to carry U.S. nuclear weapons. He said the discussion still appears to be falling short of the NATO arrangement because possible nuclear exercises between the two countries

would likely be South Korean air force aircraft escorting U.S. aircraft simulating nuclear strikes during joint drills. "North Korea would take this sensitively. (South Korea and the U.S.) are discussing this to get North Korea to take this sensitively ... because that can be a deterrence against North Korea," Kim Taewoo said. He said South Korea and the United States are likely using unofficial channels to discuss the topic. That allows South Korea to claim it's discussing the issue with the U.S. at the same time it allows Washington to deny that, he said. □

Poland's conservative premier in favor of death penalty

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki has surprisingly spoken in favor of the death penalty and admitted he doesn't share the view of the Roman Catholic Church on the matter. It seemed to be an isolated view among leaders within the 27-member European Union, which doesn't have capital punishment. His words drew criticism from the opposition.

Morawiecki, a practicing Catholic, made the comments late Monday during

a public question-and-answer session with Facebook users.

Asked by an apparent critic if the death penalty could stop his government from doing more harm to society, Morawiecki said it was a sharp question, but went on to answer it.

"In my opinion, the death penalty should be admissible for the heaviest crimes," Morawiecki said, stressing that "I do not agree on the matter with the teaching of the church, because I am a supporter of the death

penalty."

He called its abolition a "premature invention."

Some opposition lawmakers, including Monika Falej, noted that such views are characteristic of authoritarian rulers.

Poland abolished the death penalty in 1997, as it was shedding some communist-era regulations and preparing to join the EU. In 2013, Poland ratified a protocol of the European Convention of Human Rights that totally abolishes capital punishment. □



Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki speaks with the media as he arrives for an EU summit in Brussels on Oct. 21, 2022. Associated Press

Burkina Faso rights group alleges 28 dead in ethnic killings

By ARSENE KABORE and

SAM MEDNICK

Associated Press

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP) —

Volunteer militia groups supporting Burkina Faso's army have killed dozens of civilians of the ethnic Fulani group, including children, in the troubled country's west, a local rights group charged on Tuesday.

The military supporters killed nearly 30 civilians last week in Nouna town, a predominately Fulani and Muslim community, according to Daouda Diallo, executive secretary of the civic group, the Collective Against Impunity and Stigmatization of Communities. Burkina Faso's Fulani people have been increasingly targeted by the military and local defense militias because they are suspected of supporting the West African country's Islamic extremist rebels that have been inflicting violence on the country for years.

"They (support militia) essentially targeted resourceful or influential people and the able-bodied members of the community, resulting in the loss of many human lives," said Diallo.

The killings in Nouna were



Daouda Diallo, 39, One of Burkina Faso's most outspoken human rights defenders, poses for a photograph in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Thursday Feb. 3, 2022.

Associated Press

revenge attacks by volunteer fighters after jihadis attacked their headquarters, he said.

Burkina Faso's government said it has launched an investigation into the killings of at least 28 people. In a statement Monday, Armel Sama Burkina Faso's prosecutor called on the population to remain calm during the investigation and said the government would arrest the perpetrators who

conducted acts of "unprecedented gravity." Extremist groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have killed thousands and displaced nearly 2 million people in Burkina Faso over the past seven years.

Violence against the Fulani people has increased since the country's new junta leader, Capt. Ibrahim Traore, seized power in September, allege rights

groups. Between October and January Diallo's group documented nearly 250 cases of extrajudicial killings compared to 95 in the previous four months, said Diallo.

There were more initiatives for dialogue between communities and the jihadis under the rule of the previous junta leader, Col. Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba, which might have resulted in fewer killings, he said.

In an attempt to stem jihadi violence, the government has recruited tens of thousands of civilian volunteers to fight alongside the army. Both groups have been accused by rights groups of committing atrocities against civilians.

Many Fulani community members say they're equally afraid of the jihadis as they are of the volunteer militias.

Burkina Faso's government didn't immediately respond to questions about the alleged abuses.

In his New Year's speech to the nation, Traore thanked the volunteer fighters for their patriotism.

But across Burkina Faso, residents charge that the volunteers are rounding up civilians and killing them.

In December, seven volunteers abducted a father and son from their shop in Kongoussi town in the Center North region, Yacouba Diallo a resident who said he witnessed their abduction told The Associated Press by phone. The men were found dead in the forest two days later, the father had two gunshots to his body and the son was slaughtered with a knife, said Diallo. □

U.S. Virgin Islands fires attorney general in Epstein cases

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) —

The governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands has fired the attorney general of the U.S. territory who pursued various cases against disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein, including a lengthy legal fight that resulted in a \$105 million settlement.

The removal of Denise George comes just days after she filed a lawsuit against JPMorgan Chase in New York and accused the company of helping Epstein finance the illegal exploitation of women and children in the U.S. Virgin Islands and beyond.

Gov. Albert Bryan Jr. did not provide a reason for relieving George of her duties in a statement Sunday, say-

ing only that she would be replaced by Assistant Attorney General Carol Thomas-Jacobs.

Governor spokesman Richard Motta did not return a message for comment, nor did executive assistant to the attorney general Jennifer Springette.

In the lawsuit filed against JPMorgan Chase on Dec. 27, the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands alleges the company "knowingly facilitated, sustained, and concealed the human trafficking network operated by Jeffrey Epstein from his home and base in the Virgin Islands, and financially benefited from this participation, directly or indirectly, by failing to comply with federal banking regulations."



This image provided by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement shows financier Jeffrey Epstein, on July 25, 2013.

Associated Press

It also alleges that the company concealed wire and cash transactions.

"Human trafficking was the principal business of the accounts Epstein maintained at JP Morgan," the lawsuit reads. "JP Morgan turned a blind eye to evidence of human trafficking over more than a decade because of Epstein's own financial footprint, and because of the deals and clients that Epstein brought and promised to bring to the bank."

A JPMorgan Chase spokeswoman declined comment in a message Tuesday to The Associated Press.

On Dec. 30, JPMorgan Chase asked that a federal judge throw out lawsuits filed by two unidentified women alleging that big banks should have seen evidence of Epstein's sex trafficking. The bank also

said it didn't commit any negligent acts.

The lawsuit that George filed against JPMorgan Chase comes after Epstein's estate reached the \$105 million settlement with the U.S. Virgin Island's government in late November. The Virgin Islands Daily News, a local newspaper, reported that Epstein had made various donations to schools and organizations across the U.S. territory, and that the island's former first lady was the office manager for one of his companies, Southern Trust. It also noted that Bryan, the governor, had granted Epstein's company various hefty tax exemptions when he served as chairman of the Economic Development Commission. □

AHATA introduces the second series in it's awareness campaign "I am Tourism"

ORANJESTAD – Starting this Friday, Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association (AHATA) is launching the second series of the 'Ami Ta Turismo' – "I am Tourism" in English – campaign with the goal of creating awareness in our community regarding different opportunities in our tourism sector, and to show the pride and passion of dedicated people in the industry.

The second series in the campaign consists of nine

videos of different young professionals in hospitality, and each of them describes the importance of their work. AHATA considers these people as ambassadors of our tourism industry, the pillar of our economy.

The videos illustrate the diversity of jobs and people in the sector, and how passion and dedication of each employee represents Aruba's tourism product which is known worldwide. Our community can be

proud of the thousands of people who give service to our visitors, and this is why the name was chosen, "Ami Ta Turismo."

Starting this friday, one ambassador will be introduced on AHATA's social platforms each day. With this campaign, AHATA hopes to create more knowledge about the industry and to inspire more people to realize a career in the tourism industry.□



Aruba ready to start it's 69th Carnival

ORANJESTAD – A few weeks ago, the foundation in charge of Aruba's Carnival, SMAC began its meetings to organize Aruba's 69th Carnival. This week they announced that all stakeholders are organizing for the torch parade which will take place on the 7th of January.

Our island is known for its white-sanded beaches and perfect climate, but there is one time in the year that Aruba draws thousands of visitors: carnival. The visitor's experience during carnival season will be amazing. Sensational musical events, queen elections

and different parades are all part of this spectacular phenomenon.

Carnival is part of Aruba's history and cultural heritage; actually it is the largest cultural festival on the island. For the islanders it is a way to express their creativity and break away from the daily buzz of life: Dancing to the rhythm of local music while enjoying the ambiance of the public are some of the ingredients of this festival.

Oranjestad and San Nicolas are the stages for this display of unique designed costumes, amazing ambi-

ence and upbeat, local music. The festival is for everybody accessible and safe to visit. Behind the screens there is an enormous organization that makes sure that this festival runs smoothly. The police, inspection department, Red Cross volunteers, garbage service and many others work day and night to make sure that carnival is a success. All the trailers are being carefully inspected before they are allowed to participate as well as the vehicles that pull them. After each parade the streets are being cleaned and road blocks are being taken away so next day nor-



mal traffic flow occurs. The several organizations and institutions work together with the official carnival organization SMAC.

This year's calendar indicates the following:

- January 8: Prins and Pancho election;
- January 13: Children and Youth Queen election;
- January 14: Carnival Queen and Mrs. Carnival election;
- January 22: LGBTQ elections Brunch with a steelpan and drums showdown;
- January 27: Caiso Monarch final;
- January 28: Soca final;
- January 29: Balloons parade;
- February 3: Hebbe Hebbe;
- February 4: Children's Parade in North; Grand Tumba Contest;
- February 5: Transfer and Command; Big Children

The official sequence for the groups during the torch parade will be as follows:
 Empire Carnival Group
 TOB Carnival Group
 Infinity Carnival Group
 Royal Carnival Group
 Los Laga Bai Carnival Group
 Champagne Carnival Group. □



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Shopping

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offer a great collection in beach wear, clothing, perfume, shoes, jewelry, souvenirs and much more. Pamper yourself by visiting Maggy's and enjoy their salon services and shop for your favorite beauty products. Aruba Aloe has that perfect gift to bring back home, all made with

natural ingredients. Other brand favorites are Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike store, Pandora and many more.

Restaurants

Start with a breakfast meal at Paseo Herencia offering unique breakfast options such as Drunk's Denial with their Make it Your Own Crêpe Bar offering sweet and savory crêpe flavors and the option to booze it up with their Mimosa crêpe (mandarin soaked in champagne), Pina Colada (pineapples in coconut rum), Bourbon Apple, Brandy Apricot, Whiskey Pear and more. Location can be found by following the bakery smell upon arrival. Another op-



tion is Seabarita offering you delicious breakfast options ranging from Huevos Rancheros to empanadas surrounded by a cozy picnic setting with streetside view. Go Argentinian style at Che Bar and try their delicious omelet with chorizo/ham, mozzarella, onions, peppers, and tomatoes served with skillet potatoes and toast. Looking for something for the whole family? Visit TGI Fridays and choose between waffle, omelets, breakfast sandwiches and tacos starting at \$8. These restaurants are also open for lunch & dinner offering you a variety of cuisine choices. If you're looking for more unique concepts, join us for dinner at Xixon Restaurant greatly known in Miami for their Spanish inspired dishes with top notch flavors and the largest wine variety or visit The Lazy Turtle and try their exotic African dish "Kuvuta Kuku" accompanied by their tasty lazy cocktails. Coming for drinks? Sip and have a good time at the Bulldog Aruba located in the center of the Plaza. Open till late.

Visit the one-of-a-kind Caribbean Cinemas VIP on the second floor of Paseo Herencia and enjoy your favorite movies in the most comfortable reclining seats with high quality screens with the latest projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound and not to forget their delicious buttery bag of popcorn.

Entertainment

Catch live shows from Monday to Thursday and Sunday at 8pm on the Paseo center stage and the nightly water shows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm and 9:30pm. Looking for some adrenaline? Visit the Airsoft experience located behind The Lazy Turtle. Snap Instagramable pictures at the Angel Wings located between Pandora and Free Spirit or the Flying mosaic hearts located behind King Churros.

Parking up to two hours is free when shopping, dining or catching a movie at Paseo Herencia. Just present your purchase receipt at our parking cashier.

To learn more about our specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website www.paseoherencia.com.

Paseo Herencia

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MON Latin Dance Show

TUE Steelpan Music

WED Cultural Dance Show

THU Acrobatic Show

SUN Violin Show

Nightly Watershows 7:30pm - 8:30pm - 9:30pm

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www.paseoherencia.com



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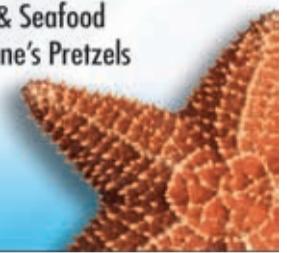
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**Aruba to me**

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Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Insta-

gram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Phil Ellerin and his family who are from Massachusetts.

Our lovely visitors wrote to us saying; "Aruba means to me... Sea, sun and family fun! A chance to relax, enjoy the company of my family who are now bringing the next generation of 4 beautiful grandchildren ... Ranging over a period of 38 years: 10 at the Divi and 28 at COSTA LINDA. New Year's would not be the same anywhere else."

Thank you sharing the meaning of Aruba to you with us and our readers. We thank you for the continuous love for our Island! □

**Aruba to me**

ments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from our lovely visitors from Manhattan, with Donald Feldman sending the message.

Our awesome visitors wrote to us sharing; "Aruba to me is family and fun time on this beautiful island. We look forward to being together on the beach; football on Eagle Beach and watching the most beautiful sunsets. We can't wait to be back in Aruba in 2023," Tracy, Doug, Holden and Tenley Campbell as well as Craig Feldman who are all from Manhattan.



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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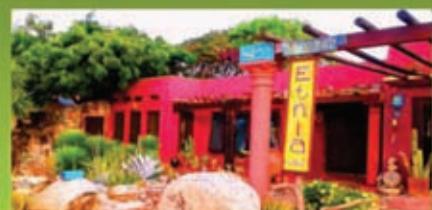
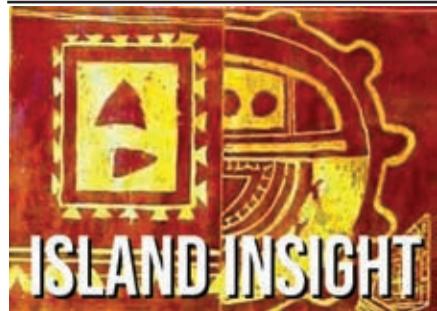
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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Our Cabrito

Destination values, native heritage, and cultural identity are what we advocate for in our own particular way of safeguarding all reasons to love Aruba. Etnia Nativa, through Island Insight, shares native cultural awareness, educates, and safeguards native heritage. It is how we encourage you to experiment with an island-keeper state of mind during your stayover.

This episode is about the goat and its domestication. According to archaeological evidence, there are over 300 different breeds of goats in the world. It is one of the oldest domesticated animal species; its earliest domestication occurred in Iran some 10,000 calibrated calendar years ago.

The modern goat subspecies evolved from the wild goat (*C. aegagrus*) of Southwest Asia and Eastern Europe. The goat belongs to the subfamily Caprinae, also sometimes referred to as the Caprini tribe, which is part of the ruminant Bovidae family of animals and the Caprini tribe, which means it is closely related to sheep.

Goat herding is an ancient tradition that is still important in many places, like Egypt. Goats have been used for providing milk, meat, fur, leather, skins, and manure in much of the world. Goat milk is often made into goat cheese.

Female goats are known as "does" or "nannies," and intact males are called "bucks" or "billies," chubato in Papiamento. While juvenile goats of both sexes

are called "kids." Castrated males are called rams. While the words hircine and caprine refer to anything that has a goat-like quality, hircine is more often used to emphasize the distinctive odor of domestic goats.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in 2020 there were more than one billion 924 million goats living on the planet. The word cabrito is of Spanish origin and refers specifically to a milk-fed young goat.

Capra hircus is a domesticated species of goat-antelope that is normally raised as cattle.

When referring to Aruba, we see that it is a place very suitable for the breeding of donkeys and goats. This was the Spanish, and they were the ones who began importing it at the start of colonization. Before 1900, and with respect to this last genre, the inhabitants of our island were exempt from the rules to which, for example, the inhabitants of the sister island of Bonaire had to adhere and who were not allowed to have more than a fixed number of animals. Aruba ranching is so underdeveloped that they have barely taken advantage of the freedom they have been given. Instead of trying to

Episode CLXXXVII 187

increase their stocks, owners are constantly looking for opportunities to sell their animals, which was particularly the case in dry years when corn crops were generally lost and the inhabitants resorted to other economic exploitation like the burning of charcoal and marine resources that allowed them to earn their existence. J. van de Bosch's letter to the King's Commissioner on Aruba contains this information.

After 1900, the number of goats began to decline at a terrifying rate. In 1910, there were still 120 head of cattle in Aruba, 82 horses, 27 mules, 1,312 donkeys, 1,048 pigs, 1,744 sheep, and 3,520 goats. As for horses, this decrease was also due to unfair taxation that, in the long run, made horse breeding unproductive.

We can mention goat's manure as one of the export products from which Aruba's rulers benefited in some way until the First World War. However, it was very much criticized by the island's farmers, who saw it as the cause of Aruba's agricultural losses. Finally, increasing wages made dung collection unprofitable. After 1928, no more manure was exported.

On the other hand, goats are great contributors to deforestation and the consequential erosion it can cause, since they uproot all new vegetation that springs up after a rainy season.

Intrigued by Aruba's origins and its cultural heritage? Then we encourage you to do something outside of the tourist grid. Become one of the few visitors to Etnia Nativa, a private residential encounter set up where you can touch and be touched by authentic Aruba heritage, a spectacle of native art, archaic and archaeological artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and other items from the island's past. Get inside a recycled environment full of peace, relaxation, knowledge, and information.

Etnia Nativa is, since 1994, the home of Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, artist craftsman, and island Piache, who guides and lectures you through his resplendent collection. Etnia Nativa is the only place that recreates and introduces you to an authentic glimpse into Aruba's native cultural heritage. Something completely different for a change—a contemporary Native Aruba experience!

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Prime minister of Aruba to travel to Sint Maarten for dialogue on democratic deficit

ORANJESTAD – Recently, media in the Kingdom of the Netherlands reported that the prime ministers of Aruba, Sint Maarten and Curaçao will be meeting with Dutch Secretary of State for Kingdom Affairs, Alexandra van Huffelen this month in Sint Maarten, to dialogue on the democratic deficit within the kingdom.



Our reporter contacted the prime minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes, and she confirmed that Aruba will indeed be present at the meeting between the prime ministers of Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten with Secretary of State Van Huffelen, and this will take place next week, January 12 and 13, in Sint Maarten.

Wever-Croes explained that on the agenda for this meeting there is the topic of democratic deficit, which is a topic on which they have already been discussing widely, seeing how there is a democratic deficit when it comes to making decisions within the kingdom of the Netherlands.

"Many times the Netherlands imposes, the Netherlands decides, the Netherlands sets conditions and then they say we went along and agreed. During the pandemic we felt this more than ever, and we committed ourselves so that when there is time, after the pandemic, we set this on the agenda, and it is on the agenda right now", Prime Minister Wever-Croes indicated.

For Aruba, the prime minister indicated that they began already before this, with consultations with different organizations and stakeholders in the community, and they began receiving their input also on what they see as the democratic deficit and how this could be eliminated or minimized.

Wever-Croes commented that based on all the input and contributions that they are receiving, and they will continue receiving before the 12th of January when the dialogue will begin, they will fix Aruba's position; she said this is because it's not only important what the government thinks, but also what stakeholders think is important.

"We asked for the opinion and input of the Parliament of Aruba, we asked the University of Aruba, the Foundation for Good Governance, and based on that, we are fixing our position", she indicated.

The prime minister emphasized that it is a fact that there is a big democratic deficit within the kingdom of the Netherlands, but for Wever-Croes it is very important that during the meetings on the 12 and 13



of January in Sint Maarten, each prime minister indicates the expectations of each country regarding this topic.

She mentioned that she has heard some countries saying that the democratic deficit is eliminated completely when a country, for example in Curaçao, has the same voice as the Netherlands; and the Netherlands said that this would never happen, because the Netherlands represents more inhabitants than Curaçao. "This means that it is important for each of us to have our expectations well defined, because otherwise, the deliberations become a failure", she underscored.

She added that for Aruba it is also very important – and she indicated that they have already expressed this in writing – that perhaps the democratic deficit cannot be eliminated in the short term, but it is important in any case to begin with a decent dispute resolution, appropriate, in which Aruba can feel that if there is a dispute with the Netherlands there is an arrangement giving the island the right to be represented fairly and fight their case.

It is also expected that the draft for the kingdom law for consensus for the establishment of the Caribbean Body for Reform and Development (COHO) will be on the agenda. The version submitted by the Netherlands met with strong resistance, which is a reason why Aruba, Sint Maarten and Curaçao are sending alternatives.

Prime Minister Wever-Croes indicated that regarding the topic of COHO, it is the case that indeed during the last meeting of administrative consultation in June last year, which took place here in Aruba at a moment when Secretary of State Van Huffelen and the prime ministers of Curaçao and Sint Maarten were also on the island, it was agreed that the countries of Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten would prepare an alternative for COHO.

She said that Aruba already prepared an alternative in the form of a mutual arrangement, and that now the Netherlands, during the meeting next week, will give its commentary on the mutual arrangement presented by Aruba, Sint Maarten and Curaçao, on which there is consensus. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 "Dracula"1 Fly writer
catchers 45 High home

5 Mauna Loa setting

11 Realty unit

12 Kampala's country

13 Tibia setting

14 Need

15 "Anna-bell Lee" author

16 Londoner, e.g.

17 Skirmishes

19 Lingerie item

22 Burger topper

24 Fable ending

26 Med. sch. subject

27 Puzzle book feature

28 Track great Owens

30 Corn

31 Really impress

32 Get smart

34 Tailless cat

35 Upper limit

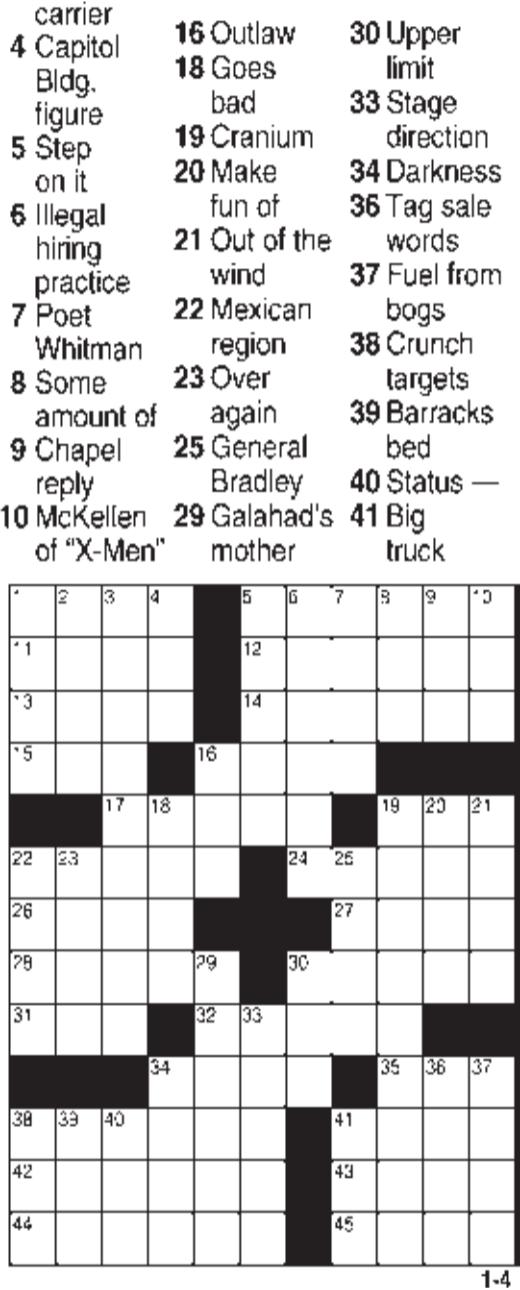
38 Find not guilty

41 Bud's place

42 Role for Damon

43 Gobi setting

BEEF	ADOBE
ARSON	CURED
SECRET	CODES
ECO	GITE
STREAM	CALL
STATE	ALES
RECAP	
ETON	OPERA
MANS	DIRECT
PIE	TEE
ACCESS	ACE
THANK	EVENT
HIRE	ARTS

Yesterday's answerAXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three U's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-4

CRYPTOQUOTE

UBMRFQ, E ZBMPFQBMP TFETYI.
BT E RBSF RY PERKFQ PYZGFM
SYSEMRT, FSOEQJ CLYM E
TFMRBSEMFREZ AYCQMFII,
EMG FMAYI FWFQI BGZF KYCQ.

AYKM OYTUFZZ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF SPREADING LIGHT: TO BE THE CANDLE OR THE MIRROR THAT REFLECTS IT. — EDITH WHARTON



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, cash is fanned out from a wallet in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

216163

Millennial Money: Up the odds of meeting money goals in 2023

By SARA RATHNER of NerdWallet

With a new year ahead and the holiday fanfare behind, this is a great time to set money goals, especially if you recently spent a lot on gifts and travel and want to get your finances in shape.

Right now, you may be highly motivated to solve every single one of your money issues in the next few months, but daily life is guaranteed to get in the way. Your financial to-do list, once so full of promise, can eventually get stuffed in the back of a drawer while you manage more pressing matters.

So how can you improve your odds of success? It comes down to accepting that you won't have the time or energy to complete every task to perfection. Creating a system where you can prioritize, plan ahead and hold yourself accountable can help.

CONSIDER UNEXPECTED HIGH-IMPACT ACTIONS

Many start by setting a goal to trim frivolous costs, which can certainly be helpful, but there are other ways to make a big difference. Taylor Schulte, a certified financial planner and founder of Define Financial, an advisory firm in San Diego, recommends starting with a few overlooked financial tasks.

Freezing your credit is a quick, easy way to guard yourself against identity theft. It's free to do, and you can temporarily lift the freeze when you're applying for a loan or credit card. Schulte also suggests looking into umbrella insurance, which offers additional coverage beyond what your auto, homeowners and other insurance policies provide. This coverage can spare you from massive out-of-pocket costs in the event you get sued.

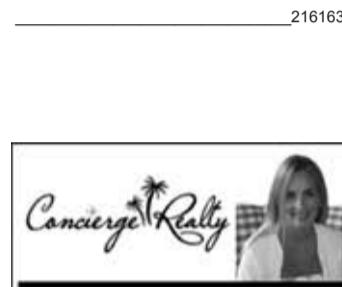
Basic estate planning, including creating a will, is another thing to put high on your list. Putting off this task can create a major headache for your loved ones if something happens to you unexpectedly. "I know it's a pain point and it's often kicked down the road," Schulte says.

Paying attention to your spending is always important, but don't neglect taking steps to protect your money, yourself and your loved ones. □

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The map shows the layout of downtown Aruba, including streets like Weststraat, Schelpstraat, and L.G. Smith Boulevard. It highlights the locations of the ARUBA TODAY and BONDIA offices, which are situated close to each other near the intersection of Weststraat and Schelpstraat. Other nearby landmarks include the Royal Plaza Mall and the High Rise Hotel.

Review: Whodunit 'The Pale Blue Eye' chills and satisfies

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

Grab a jacket or a blanket before you watch Netflix's engrossing "The Pale Blue Eye." I don't care if you're already in a warm place. You could be on the surface of the sun and still feel chilly watching it.

Set during an unrelenting winter in upstate New York in 1830, this frosty movie with snowy vistas, flickering candles and howling winds will get your teeth chattering. Even lovers romping in bed are fully clothed. The only thing to get the blood moving here is a spot of murder. Actually, it's no mere killing that brings Augustus Landor, a retired New York City police constable with superior sleuthing skills, to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point on this winter in question. Yes, a cadet has died on campus, found hanging from a tree. But someone has also harvested his heart.

To crack the case, Landor, played with trademark taciturn intensity by Christian Bale sporting impressive facial hair, enlists the help of one of the cadets, who is an odd sort of military man. This is when things get weirder: The cadet is future famous macabre poet



This image released by Netflix shows Christian Bale as Augustus Landor, left, and Harry Melling as Edgar Allan Poe in a scene from "The Pale Blue Eye."

Associated Press

Edgar Allan Poe, who really did spend time at West Point, though not as an undercover detective.

"The man you're looking for is a poet," Poe says, acted by an equally intense Harry Melling, who once played the bad guy Dudley Dursley in the "Harry Potter" franchise. Poe recognizes that a heart is just a muscle, but its symbolic value is crucial to cracking the case.

The title comes from a line in

Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" and the source of this movie is a novel of the same name by Louis Bayard. Director and screenwriter Scott Cooper builds tension with a series of seemingly unconnected clues a note fragment, a military jacket missing a decoration, some animals disemboweled. This is a film wonderfully grounded in its time and space, where you hear creaking wooden floor-

boards and owls hooting and darkness cloaks everything. You feel the 1830s and the greasy, unkempt hair and heavy woolen uniforms. At one point, apparently not cold enough, we visit an ice house. The R-rated whodunit takes an unfortunate turn into the occult as our two heroes a gruff, tragic-stricken detective and a romantic, hyper-intellectual poet uncover each other's secrets. Poe

falls for a classmate's sister he gives his heart, get it? and may be letting love blind him. But perhaps the detective is not telling us all we should know, either.

Aside from all the cold drama by pale people, there's also a little meta twist. We learn that the leaders of the military academy want the detective to solve this quickly because they're catching heat from Congress. Look closely and see if you catch Pennsylvania Sen.-elect John Fetterman and his wife in cameos in a tavern. Much of the filming was done in their state.

There are also some talented folks in the cast that you might miss Robert Duvall plays an expert in the occult, Gillian Anderson is a haughty matriarch, and Charlotte Gainsbourg plays a love interest for Landor. □

The ability to deploy this level of talent so quietly is almost cheeky. The film has a few odd jumps and seemingly comes to a fiery conclusion — finally some warmth, good God — but it's a false ending. A much better one awaits, one that's unexpected and very, very satisfying. Stay to the end — as long as you're bundled up. □

India's Partition in deeply human debut novel

By DONNA EDWARDS

Associated Press

Star-crossed lovers. Intoxicating scents. Old war journals containing ghosts and secrets. What more could you want in a work of historical fiction?

Aanchal Malhotra's debut novel "The Book of Everlasting Things" paints a riveting picture of the 1947 Partition of India using all senses especially and unusually leaning into smell. The Vij family, Hindus living in Lahore who become minor celebrities as perfumers, are well known and highly regarded for their unsurpassed *ittar*, extracted from flowers. This success attracts the Khans, a Muslim family whose patri-

arch teaches calligraphy at the Wazir Khan Mosque across town. On a fateful visit to the Vij shop in 1938, it's the young Firdaus Khan's scent that bewitches perfuming apprentice Samir Vij.

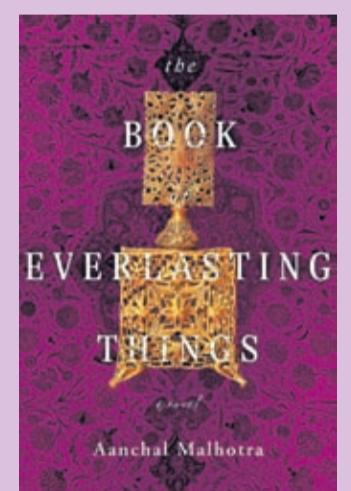
Over the next 10 years, their relationship grows from the curiosity of children to the fierce and longing love of young adults. But Partition takes "star-crossed lovers" to a new level as violence takes hold of Lahore, threatening to leave no person untouched by the impending split that would result in Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan.

But the story stretches far

beyond Samir and Firdaus. To truly understand the history and the characters, Malhotra brings us back to Samir's uncle the first in his family to enlist in the army witnessing firsthand the horrors of World War I trenches for the sake of India's colonizer, Great Britain. The story also stretches decades into the future, allowing the ramifications of war and heartbreak to echo through generations. And although the facts are predictable, the people are decidedly not. "The Book of Everlasting Things" is a book to stroll through and indulge in; a sensory paradise basking in the sound of words, the smell of a childhood mem-

ory, the alluring hook of a nose or a letter. It's an ode to passion, from handi-craft to the first and deepest love. Tender moments slice through enchanting descriptions. Scenes of violence and accompanying smell-scapes of rot and decay breathe life into history. Loving relationships are laid bare in their many forms: mentorship, friendship, romantic love, marital partnership, parental affection and each of these through various stages.

Having already proved her deep knowledge of Partition in her previous two nonfiction works, along with over a dozen articles and other works, Malhotra tried her hand at longform



This cover image released by Flatiron shows "The Book of Everlasting Things" by Aanchal Malhotra.

Associated Press

fiction and succeeded with elegance. At all turns, "The Book of Everlasting Things" is deeply human, with careful attention paid to both factual and emotional accuracy. □

Mitchell's masterpiece: Cavs star scores 71 points in win

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

A towel strewn over his shoulders, still in his uniform after the game, Donovan Mitchell wearily took a seat and looked at the boxscore that had been placed in front of him.

Someone standing nearby asked if he needed anything, and Mitchell politely declined.

"I'm good," Mitchell said. "I'm as good as can be." As good as he's ever been in an NBA game, for sure. Better, even. Better than most anyone in any game ever, actually.

In a season where big numbers have become the norm, Mitchell put up the biggest numbers of all Monday night matching the second highest-scoring game the NBA has seen in nearly 45 years.

He finished with 71 points, tying for eighth-most in league history, to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers past the Chicago Bulls 145-134 in overtime.

The only other players to score at least 71 in a game: Wilt Chamberlain, Kobe Bryant, David Thompson, David Robinson and Elgin Baylor.

"This is nuts, to be honest," said Mitchell, who had 55



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell (45) shoots against Chicago Bulls guard Zach LaVine (8) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

of his points after halftime. "I'm extremely blessed and humbled that I'm in that company, in that group. I've always believed I can be one of the best players in this league, but I've got to keep working. This is a big milestone, but at the end of the day, those guys have all won at the highest level. That's my ultimate goal."

The most recent game of more than 71 points was Bryant's 81-point masterpiece for the Los Angeles

Lakers against Toronto on Jan. 22, 2006. Before that, it was 73 points by David Thompson for Denver against Detroit on April 9, 1978.

"To be there in the record books with them is truly incredible," Mitchell said. His was the 12th game of 50 or more points in the NBA so far this season; later Monday, Golden State's Klay Thompson scored 54 in the Warriors' double-overtime win over Atlanta becoming the 13th 50-point game

of the season.

Video game numbers are coming nightly now. Before Dec. 23, there had only been four days in NBA history where five players scored at least 40 points on the same day.

Consider: that's four days in 76 years.

It's happened three times in less than two weeks since. On Dec. 23, five players Dallas' Luka Doncic, Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, New York's

RJ Barrett and Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton did it. A week later, Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, Chicago's Zach LaVine, New Orleans' CJ McCollum and Golden State's Jordan Poole combined to do it again.

And then Monday, led by Mitchell and Thompson, it happened yet again with James, Embiid and Chicago's DeMar DeRozan also scoring at least 40.

"I'll say again: Humbled to be in that company, humbled to be in this position," Mitchell said.

There have been 87 games of at least 40 or more points already this season, by a combined 33 players. Doncic has eight such games of 40 or more, Embiid and Antetokounmpo each have seven, Boston's Jayson Tatum has six.

There were 119 games of 40 or more in the entirety of the 2021-22 regular season; this season isn't even half over yet and players are already closing in on that total.

Doncic's 60-point game, which he had on Dec. 27, was the NBA's season high. It didn't even last a week, not with Mitchell's gem on Monday. □

Bills-Bengals won't resume game this week, Week 18 unchanged

By ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

The Bills-Bengals game that was suspended Monday night after Buffalo safety Damar Hamlin suffered cardiac arrest will not be resumed this week and the Week 18 schedule remains unchanged, the NFL said Tuesday.

The NFL has made no decision regarding the possible resumption of the pivotal Bills-Bengals game at a later date.

The 24-year-old Hamlin remained in critical condition on Tuesday after the Bills said his heart stopped after making a tackle in the opening quarter of a game against the Bengals. Medical staff restored his heartbeat during frantic

moments on the field before he was loaded into an ambulance. Players from both teams were crying and praying during an emotional scene in front of a national television audience.

"Damar experienced cardiac arrest and was promptly resuscitated by on-site club physicians and independent medical personnel, all of whom are highly trained in implementing the plans for medical emergencies," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a letter sent to all teams that was obtained by The Associated Press. "Damar was stabilized and transported to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, a Level One trauma center, where

he remains in the ICU." Goodell informed the clubs in his memo that Dr. Nyaka NiiLampti sent each team's clinician and head of player engagement information about mental health and support resources that are available to players and staff.

"Additional resources including on-site services can be available for any club that wishes this assistance," Goodell said.

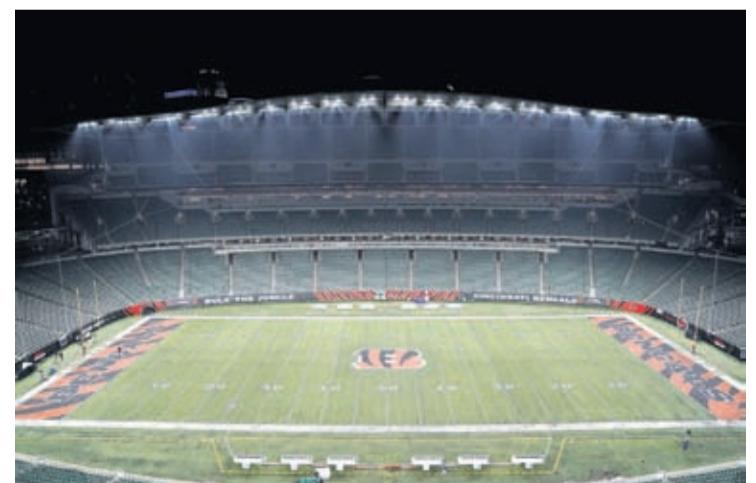
Goodell told teams they would be advised promptly of any changes to this weekend's schedule. The outcome of the Bills-Bengals game has major playoff implications.

Both teams are fighting for the AFC's No. 1 seed. The Bills (12-3) entered the

game in the top spot while the Bengals (11-4) had a chance to clinch the AFC North with a victory and also were in the mix for the

No. 1 seed along with Kansas City (13-3).

The Bengals led 7-3 in the first quarter when the game was stopped. □



Paycor Stadium sits empty after the NFL postponed the game following an injury to Buffalo Bills' Damar Hamlin during the first half of an NFL football game between the Cincinnati Bengals and Buffalo Bills, Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

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New year on the PGA Tour more mysterious than ever

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) —

One moment the splash of a humpback whale's tail pierced the Pacific blue below the Plantation Course at Kapalua. Before long, as players began lining up for practice rounds, a brief shower sent everyone seeking cover.

It was a fitting start to a new year on the PGA Tour, where circumstances can change with little notice. As for what to expect in 2023 the short answer is anything check in with Scottie Scheffler and what he would have wanted going into last year.

"One win would have been nice," Scheffler said with a laugh. "When you've got zero, all you're looking for is one." He wound up with four, including a Masters green jacket, a PGA Tour record \$14 million in tournament earnings and a bronze status of Jack Nicklaus awarded for being player of the year.

In these times, trying to decipher which player will emerge is secondary to so many other issues off the course. Here are six topics to contemplate for 2023:

LIV GOLF

The question of "who's next?" has given way to "what's next?" for the Saudi-funded rival league. LIV Golf has gone largely quiet in the last month except disclosing that its chief operating officer had resigned. A 2023 schedule was expected in November, but at the close of the year, only seven sites had been announced for the 14-tournament schedule.

Far more pressing is whether LIV Golf can find a television partner for the United States and the United Kingdom, even if it has to pay for it. As for who's next, ex-



Adam Scott of Australia stands on the 1st tee box with his caddie Fanny Sunesson during the final round of the British Open Golf Championship in Carnoustie, Scotland, Sunday July 22, 2018.

Associated Press

pect the rumors to crank up as soon as the PGA Tour gets started this week at Kapalua, though there has been no substance in any speculation involving the top players.

Cameron Smith and Joaquin Niemann waited until the FedEx Cup playoffs were over to join LIV Golf last summer. LIV's first tournament is Feb. 24-26, a week after the West Coast Swing ends at Riviera with a \$20 million purse in the Genesis Invitational.

However many millions of dollars LIV paid to sign top players last year, it's hard to imagine the rates coming down to get a big name. LIV can't afford to lose momentum.

TIGER WOODS

It's not so much where Tiger Woods plays as how much he plays.

Plantar fasciitis that kept him from playing in the Bahamas and hobbled him at the PNC Championship raised more doubts about his future. His emotional

crossing over the Swilcan Bridge at St. Andrews in July was the last time Woods walked in a tournament.

The earliest Woods might play is at Riviera in February for the Genesis Invitational. The Masters is certainly a target (Woods has never missed the cut as a pro). The PGA Championship is at Oak Hill in May, which could be chilly. Woods tied for 39th in 2003 and tied for 40th in 2013 his previous two PGAs at Oak Hill.

Woods remains active in helping to reshape the PGA Tour. But fans want to see him play.

THE MAJORS

The Masters waited until 11 days before the end of the year to say its criteria will stay the same for April, even as Chairman Fred Ridley expressed disappointment in the disruption LIV Golf has caused.

Most telling was a reminder that any modifications or changes to the invitation criteria would be announced in April. One

possibility is leaning more on the money list than the world ranking, as it last did in 1998.

The U.S. Open will decide any changes at its annual meeting in February. The PGA Championship has used the PGA Tour money list and invitations, which typically are for the top 100 in the world, but not stated that way in the entry form. When or if LIV gets world ranking points, most of the players will have slid out of the top 50. Moving up in the ranking with 48-man fields won't be easy.

AZALEA

That's the name of the 13th hole at Augusta National, a par 5 that has been reached in two with a driver and a sand wedge by some of the longest hitters. And everyone seems to hit it long these days.

The Masters finally decided to lengthen one of the most dynamic holes on the course, extending the tee to make the hole play 35 yards longer.

Ridley cited Augusta National co-founder Bobby Jones as saying a decision to go for the green in two at the 13th should be a momentous one. "And I would have to say that our observations of these great players hitting middle and even short irons into that hole is not a momentous decision," Ridley said in April.

Tony Finau was there in November when it was soft and damp and hit 3-iron and 4-iron in the rounds he played. He expects players hitting about 5-iron in April. To be determined is whether the decision is "momentous."

THE SLAM

The question has been the same for the last five years: Who gets to the career Grand Slam first? Rory McIlroy is the obvious choice at the Masters, coming off a stellar season that saw him return to No. 1 in the world. Jordan Spieth gets his seventh crack at the final leg in the PGA Championship. The difference is Augusta National and the scar tissue it leaves from being the only major played on the same course. This will be McIlroy's 15th appearance at the Masters. Sergio Garcia (19) and Mark O'Meara (15) are the only two players to have played the Masters that often before finally winning. Neither was going for the final leg of the Grand Slam.

The other, of course, is Phil Mickelson. He will be 53 when he tries to win the U.S. Open.

RYDER CUP

The first question is who plays?

The Americans had three players on the winning team from Whistling Straits who have joined LIV Golf and are ineligible to earn points. Given the depth, they are easily replaced. □